



# LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

## DAMASCUS, SYRIA

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# Daily Review of the Syrian Press

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Tuesday, April 25, 1950

25X1

### Newspapers Reviewed:

Alif Ba', Al Nasr, Al Manar, Al-Fayha', Al Ba'th, Barada, Al-Balad, Al-Kifah, Al Masa', Al Qabas, Al-Ayyam, Al-Isha', Al Alam, Al Hadara, Al Nidal, Al Shabab, Al Nazir, Al Islah, Al-Suri, Al Jabal, Asa-al-Jannah, and Al Naqqad.

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DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

25X1

### BOMB INCIDENT

Asa al-Jannah observes in an editorial that all Syria has condemned the bombing of the United States Legation in Damascus as it would have condemned the bombing of any other Legation. Syria does not believe in such methods. It believes, however, that the bombing of any American Legation would not alter President Truman's convictions, especially with regard to Israel which possesses considerable capital and three million votes in America.

It is true that Syria condemned the bomb incident when it was reported that an unidentified person had thrown the bomb at the American Legation and that this person was probably influenced by Minister Dawalibi's declarations or motivated by his resentment at American pressure on the Arabs. Today, however, it is learned that the bombing was perpetrated neither by a Syrian nor by an Arab. Evidences show that the Legation itself is associated with this incident, since no person, however strong he might be, could have thrown a bomb, more than 2 kilos in weight, from a distance of more than 150 meters. Furthermore, he could not have escaped without leaving footprints in the neighboring gardens which had been watered. Now that it has been learned that the perpetrator is neither a Syrian nor an Arab, we should like doubly to condemn the bombing of the US

Legation and to assert that such subversive methods are detrimental only to those who embrace them. As for Syria, it will not retract its attitude, nor will it abandon its firm conviction that the existence of Israel endangers the very existence of the Arabs.

Al Kifah reports that the detainees on charges of involvement in the American Legation bomb incident who number 23 have gone on a hunger strike in their prison cells. All attempts to persuade them to eat have failed.

#### ATTACHES?

Al Nasr: This paper's representative learned from a source closely connected with the American Legation that the staff employed in all parts of Syria by that Legation including consuls, attaches, officers, commercial and agricultural attaches, and others employed in the sections of propaganda, public relation, and commerce numbers 500.

Our representative also was informed that consequent to the well-known declaration made by Dr. Dawalibi, the United States allotted 20 million dollars for propaganda in Syria alone.

On this occasion, we would like to refer to Dr. Dawalibi's declaration in which he stated that the aircraft which bombed Damascus during the Palestine war was an American flying fortress. We should like to add that it has been rumored that the pilot of the aforesaid aircraft which bombed residential quarters and killed a number of innocent persons in Damascus was appointed about one month and a half ago as assistant air attache at the American Legation in Damascus.

We do not urge the opening of an inquiry into this subject because tangible evidence is not available, but we would like to urge our government to inquire into the reasons for employing such an army of attaches and employees.

#### SYRO-FRENCH TALKS

Al Manar: Following the meeting of the Council of Ministers, Minister of Finance 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Azam received the French Minister Plenipotentiary in Syria in the presence of the Prime Minister. It is believed that important and urgent issues had been discussed in this meeting.

#### STATE RELIGION

Al Manar: The Greek Orthodox members of the Constituent Assembly have been invited to a meeting on Monday, April 25, with the Greek Orthodox Patriarch, Alexandros III to discuss the question of the State's religion.

#### BANQUET BY 'ASALI

Al Manar: For Release 2005/04/22 : CIA-RDP83-00415R005200120009-1 Interior and the Secretary.....

the Secretary General of the Nationalist Party, gave a dinner party at his house on Sunday last. A considerable number of political leaders, journalists, and writers were invited to this party.

#### AN INCIDENT IN ALEPPO COLLEGE

Al Qabas reports this incident in Aleppo.

Dr. Carleton, the President of Aleppo College, was showing at the college a film on Clapp's projects in the State of Michigan, in the United States, when student Mirwan al-Jindi interrupted, "Have we not had enough American pressure. Do we also have to be a scene for American propaganda." The Dean of the College replied, "Bring us a Russian film and we will show it." Others shouted, "Who wrote to Dr. Carleton to bring with him propaganda for Clapp's projects."

#### A BRITISH CONSPIRACY IN ALEPPO (See Pr. Dig. 76/3)

Al Masa': Commenting on the reports of a British-incited attempt in Aleppo to foment trouble between the Moslems and the Christians, this paper writes in part:

The conspiracy plotted by the IPC employees on instructions from their British masters is an indication that imperialist states are going all out to cause dissension and foment troubles in Syria.

We frankly warn the Government that further toleration of foreigners will lead to serious consequences. Unless drastic measures are taken by the Government, whatever the consequences may be, we will have to pay dearly. It is preferable to die under the foot of an aggressive power than surrender willingly to imperialists and aggressors.

#### COLLECTIVE SECURITY PACT

Alif Ba': According to a communiqué issued late in the evening, the Council of Ministers at its meeting, Monday, approved the Collective Security Pact.

#### ARAB AFFAIRS

##### MERGER OF ARAB PALESTINE AND JORDAN

Alif Ba': Dr. Nazim al-Qudsi has denied the statement of Tawfiq Pasha abul-Huda, the President of the new Jordanian Parliament, that Syria had agreed to the annexation of Arab Palestine to Jordan, when H.E. Hashim al-Atasi was a Prime Minister, and he, Dr. Qudsi, was Foreign Minister. Dr. Qudsi stated that Tawfiq abul-Huda had requested the Syrian Government at that time to agree to the annexation of Arab Palestine to Jordan, but he was told that the question would be discussed at the meeting of the Arab League Council which was held in Cairo last week. Dr. Qudsi stated that the Syrian Government was not ready to make a decision for making

a decision.....

(Encl. Dig. 77/4)

a decision on this subject.

Al-Jabal published an editorial commenting on the annexation of Arab Palestine to Jordan. The paper remarks that should the Arab states recognize the fait accompli resulting from the annexation of Arab Palestine to Jordan in order not to create internal disputes in the Arab League, they would probably be justified in their action. However, the recognition of a fait accompli involving another Arab state should not distract the Arab states from the fact that certain big states are calling upon the Arabs to recognize the fait accompli resulting from the Zionist occupation of a part of Palestine which is much more important than that which has been recently annexed to Jordan. Recognition of the fait accompli in the first case may be justified, but recognition of the fait accompli in the second case should be considered as a national betrayal which will never be forgiven by posterity.

Al Masa' wonders why King 'Abdallah has always insisted on describing the annexation of Arab Palestine to Jordan as a liberation movement. The entire world is aware that the annexation of the Arab part of Palestine means its subjection to British imperialism and fetters. King 'Abdallah's attempt to justify annexation is more outrageous than the act of annexation itself.

Al Fayha' describes the annexation of the Arab part of Palestine to Jordan as a closing scene in the tragedy which was first enacted in 1917 when the Balfour Declaration was issued. Balfour, Truman, Stalin, 'Abdallah, and a group of British, American, Russian and Arab statesmen have taken part in the performance of this tragedy. It should be noted, however, that King 'Abdallah is doubly, and the Arab nation a thousandfold, more responsible than the other statesmen for the Palestine tragedy. Why does not the Arab nation which numbers 70 million people adopt a firm attitude towards imperialism and the attempts to subject the Arabs to Zionist influence? If the Arab people are unable to withstand imperialistic states, are they also unable to overthrow an imperialistic agent in their countries? The Arab League is necessary for the welfare of the Arab nation, but what is the use of this League if Britain and the Jews are represented in it? The Arab League should therefore either oust the corrupt member in it or dissolve itself and hope that God may bestow on the Arab nation a new Saladin.

#### EVEN AMERICAN WOMEN

Al Alam: Mrs. Ethridge, the wife of the former American member of the Conciliation Commission, declared that Israel is not expected to make any progress unless it concludes a permanent peace treaty with the Arabs.

The paper quotes Mrs. Ethridge as having stated in her book "I Visited Jerusalem" that there are certain facts which Americans should know about the Middle East. Mrs. Ethridge further stated that when she visited Jerusalem she had an instinctive sympathy

then she realized the error of her preconceived ideas and changed her views upon seeing for herself about 900,000 refugees living in caves and tents on not more than two dollars each per month. "The Arabs", she added, "are convinced that America is not acquainted with Arab problems except through the perspective of Zionist viewpoints, and they hate America as much as they hate Britain."

#### FORMER IRAQI MINISTER SUPPORTS DAWALIBI

Al Manar: Mr. Sadiq al-Bassam, former Minister of Defense in the Iraqi Cabinet during the Palestine hostilities, has supported in a statement in Baghdad, Dawalibi's and Sibahi's statements.

The Iraqi Minister reiterated what he had previously stated that the allies had harbored ill-intentions towards the Arabs during the Palestine hostilities. "Persistence on the part of our allies to continue the policy of weakening the Arab countries has compelled many responsible leaders to reiterate what I had then stated," former Minister Bassam concluded.

#### ANNEXATION OF ARAB PALESTINE

The annexation of the Arab sector of Palestine to Jordan which was announced yesterday by King Abdullah at the meeting of the new Jordanian parliament was deplored today by the Syrian press.

Al Manar: Asked for his opinion on the annexation, Premier 'Azm stated to the Eastern News Agency that the Political Committee of the Arab League will meet to discuss this question and take the necessary measures. Asked about the measures which the Syrian Government may take in this respect, the Syrian Premier said that he could not commit himself to a course of action until the Political Committee meets.

Al Balad: The Jordanian Minister in Beirut will arrive today, Tuesday in Damascus to transmit to the Syrian Government the decision taken by the Jordanian Parliament and ratified by King Abdullah to annex the Arab sector of Palestine to Jordan.

#### MINISTER DAWALIBI

Barada: The Washington correspondent of Al Misri reports that President Truman has requested H. M. King 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Saud to use his good offices in an effort to convince H.E. Hashim-al-Atasi to remove Minister Dawalibi from the scene of Syrian politics or, at least, to silence him.

Commenting on this report, Dr. Ma'ruf al-Dawalibi, the Syrian Minister of National Economy, declared:

"If this request is true, it implies a new warning designed to subject Syria and the other Arab countries to Zionist influence.

It is strange.....

(Pr. Dig. 77/6)

It is strange that certain people think that the attempt to remove me from politics is the best method for distracting Arab indignation with American policy. On the contrary, such an attempt would increase Arab indignation a thousandfold, since it would supply a new proof of the extent of Jewish influence on the American state and of Jewish pressure to induce America to silence a voice which has expressed the wishes of the Arab people. To silence a voice would not silence an entire people. I, as an individual, was not born to become a Minister. Consequently, I would not hesitate to despise a post which might prevent me from openly declaring the truth which has become a topic of conversation in every group. Were the stones articulate, they would also declare this truth.

"To inspire confidence in the Arabs and to secure their friendship cannot be achieved by exerting pressure on those who express their dissatisfaction, but by establishing justice and redeeming the rights of the peaceful indigenous Arab population of Palestine."

#### ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

##### SYRO-LEBANESE RELATIONS

Al Balad: Following the new Lebanese measure prohibiting the import of Syrian products with the exception of leather, wool, vetch, and hay, the Council of Ministers at its meeting Monday evening decided to suspend all exports and imports to and from Lebanon except within regulations to be issued by the Minister of National Economy.

Following the meeting, Minister Dawalibi stated to the press that the Lebanese Government was free to take any measures which it considered to be in its interests. The Lebanese exclusion of leather, wool, vetch, and hay from its list of articles whose import from Syria is prohibited indicates, however, that Lebanon wants to export Syrian leather and wool for rare currency and import from Syria vetch and hay for feeding Lebanese cattle!

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